## PROCLAMATION

BY THE

## Gobernor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14 of the Texas Constitution, I, Ann W. Richards, Governor of Texas, do hereby veto H.B. 360 because of the following objections:

This bill would allow a foster parent who has had actual possession of a child for a period of one year and, in the case of a court-ordered placement, as little as six months, to bring a suit to terminate the rights of the natural parents and adopt the child. According to an interpretation from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, a state statute that allows foster parents to petition for termination of parental rights would be contrary to the intent of the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 (P.I. 96-272). Therefore, this bill becoming law would result in the loss of a significant amount of federal funds for Texas.

The Secretary of State will take notice of this action and will notify the members of the Legislature.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name officially and causainhe Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of May, 1993.

Ann W. Richards Governor of Texas herde

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